

EXHIBIT 6DATE Jan 15, 2013HB 6

January 10, 2013

Mr. Rob Cook, Chairman
Long Range Planning Subcommittee
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Town of Manhattan is thankful for the opportunity to address the Long Range Planning Sub-committee. In 2004 the Town developed a formal master plan and growth policy for the community. The plan detailed how water, sanitary sewer, streets and traffic infrastructure needed to be addressed to better service both the existing population and the growth projected for our community. The grant funding we are requesting will complete the last phase of the Water Master Plan which is the construction of a water storage tank, transmission main and SCADA control system

Manhattan has made good use of prior grant and loan funding by installing water meters and auxiliary power to the booster pump, replacing the water main under the interstate and fencing our pump stations. Manhattan has also made costly upgrades to its wastewater treatment system to address Montana DEQ standards for our wastewater discharge.

Manhattan has made substantial efforts to deal with public facility problems through adequate user and impact fees. Manhattan has one of the highest combined water and sewer rates in Montana (\$106.58 per month for an average bill). This project will increase our rates by an additional \$5.50/month. With this project our combined water and sewer rate will exceed 150% of the combined target rate.

A water tower will solve our inadequate fire flows at the school and in the commercial area adjacent to Main Street. When combined, the proposed water system improvements will allow the Town to meet State and Uniform Fire Code standards including more reliable water flow, system pressure and much improved fire protection. The lack of system storage and substandard fire protection has historically plagued Manhattan. This project represents a significant improvement for the health and safety of Manhattan's residents.

The funding requested by the Town from the RRGL and TSEP programs is needed to keep these improvements as affordable as possible because our residents are already paying very high rates. We strongly urge the committee to fund our project because of the importance of this project to the safety of the community.

In closing, we wish to thank both the RRGL and TSEP programs and staff for their assistance on past projects for the community. We strongly support both of these programs because they help make very expensive infrastructure projects possible for communities like ours. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our funding request.

Sincerely Yours,

Town of Manhattan



David Rowell
Manhattan Mayor